

The Norman Conquest

65

in the valley of the Crati, a treaty was drawn up, after an interview in which the two embraced one another in tears, "like Joseph and Benjamin of old," says Malaterra, Calabria was divided between the brothers by a sort of *condominium* or equal ownership, by which each was to possess the half of each castle and town in that province,¹

Roger now devoted himself to the conquest of Sicily, a task which was not completed till thirty years after its inception, The slowness of the enterprise can be explained by other things than the stubborn defence of the Moslems. Never at any time save at the capture of Palermo could Roger dispose of large forces, In 1062, he commanded only a hundred knights, though he was soon after reinforced by thirty under the leadership of his nephew Serlo, his partner in the conquest and a gallant and able soldier. The army of which these were the nucleus could not have numbered more than six hundred all told, Again Roger was constantly being recalled to aid his brother in Italy, and could not turn his whole mind to the conquest of the island, Thus the fighting in the first years was largely a matter of

skirmishes,
raids, ambushes, the permanent gains
being re-
presented by the fortresses which he
built at
Troina, Petralia, Nicosia, and
elsewhere, which,
manned by sturdy little garrisons,
gradually bridled
the country.

The Norman hold on Sicily was
indeed soon

* Chalandon, *op. cit.*, I, p. 200.

I